

## Entente Reject Teutonic Offer

PEACE OVERTURES ARE REGARD-  
ED AS INSINCERE

### INFLUENCE NEUTRALS

Jointly the Allies Declare There Will  
Be No Peace Without Penalties, Rep-  
aration and Guarantees on the Part  
of Germany.

Paris, Dec. 30.—The joint reply of all the Entente Allies to Germany's peace note of December 12 was handed to-night to Ambassador Sharp. It will be transmitted through President Wilson and the American diplomatic corps to the Teutonic allies. The note in full follows:

The allied governments of Belgium, France, Great Britain, Italy, Japan, Montenegro, Portugal, Rumania, Russia, Serbia, united for the defence of the liberty of their peoples and faithful to engagements taken not to lay down their arms separately, have resolved to reply collectively to the pretended propositions of peace which were addressed to them on behalf of the enemy governments through the intermediary of the United States, Spain, Switzerland and Holland.

Before making any reply the allied powers desire particularly to protest against the two essential assertions of the note of Germany, after that pretend to throw upon the allies the responsibility for the war, and proclaim the victory of the central powers. The allied governments cannot admit an affirmation doubly ineffectual, and which suffices to render sterile all tentative negotiations.

Germany's Word Considered Worthless.

The allied nations have sustained for thirty months a war they did everything to avoid. They have shown by their acts their attachments to peace. That attachment is as strong today as it was in 1914. But it is not upon the word of Germany, after the violation of its engagements, that the peace broken by her may be based.

A mere suggestion, without a statement of terms, that negotiations should be opened, is not an offer of peace. The putting forward by the imperial government of a sham proposal lacking all substance and precision would appear to be less an offer of peace than a war measure. It is founded on calculated misinterpretation of the character of the struggle in the past, the present and the future.

As for the past, the German note takes no account of the facts, dates and figures which establish that the war was desired, provoked and declared by Germany and Austria-Hungary.

At The Hague conference it was a German delegate who refused all proposals for disarmament. In July, 1914, it was Austria-Hungary, who, after having addressed to Serbia an ultimatum, ultimately declared war upon her in spite of the satisfaction which had at once been accorded.

Rejected Peace Efforts in 1914. The central empires then rejected all attempts made by the Entente to bring about a pacific solution of a purely local conflict. Great Britain suggested a conference; France proposed an international commission; the emperor of Russia asked the German empire to go to arbitration, and Russia and Austria-Hungary came to an understanding on the eve of the conflict. But to all these efforts Germany gave neither answer nor effect. Belgium was invaded by an empire which had guaranteed her neutrality and which had the assurance to proclaim that treaties were "scraps of paper" and that "necessity knows no law."

At the present moment these sham offers on the part of Germany, which represent nothing more than a superficial and partial solution of the situation, and not the real strength of the belligerents. A peace concluded upon these terms would be only to the advantage of the aggressors, who, after imagining that they would reach their goal in two months, discovered after two years that they could never attain it.

Penalties, Reparation, Guarantees, Demanded.

As for the future, the disasters caused by the German declaration of war and the innumerable outrages committed by Germany and her allies against both belligerents and neutrals demand penalties, reparation and guarantees. Germany avoids mention of any of these.

In reality, these overtures made by the central powers are nothing more than a calculated attempt to influence the future course of the war and to



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and it by imposing a German peace. The object of these overtures is to create dissension in public opinion in the allied countries. But that public opinion has, in spite of all the sacrifices endured by the allies, already given its answer with admirable firmness, and has denounced the empty pretence of the declaration of the enemy powers.

They have the further object of stifling public opinion in Germany and in the countries allied to her—one and all severely tried by their losses, worn out by economic pressure and crushed by the supreme effort which has been imposed upon their inhabitants.

Reject Empty and Insincere Offer. They endeavor to deceive and intimidate public opinion in neutral countries, whose inhabitants have long since made up their minds where the initial responsibilities lie, and are far too enlightened to favor the designs of Germany by abandoning the defence of human freedom.

Finally, these overtures attempt to justify in advance in the eyes of the world a new series of crimes—submarine warfare, deportations, forced labor and forced enlistment of the inhabitants against their own countries and violations of neutrality.

Fully conscious of the gravity of its requirements, the allied governments, closely united to one another and in perfect sympathy with their peoples, refuse to consider a proposal which is empty and insincere.

Once again the allies declare that no peace is possible for Germany, so long as they have not brought about a settlement calculated to end once and for all the peril which has constituted a perpetual menace to the nations and so afford the only effective guarantee for the future security of the world.

In conclusion, the allied powers think it necessary to put forward the following considerations, which show the special situation of Belgium after two and a half years of war. In virtue of the international treaties signed by five great European powers of whom Germany was one, Belgium enjoyed before the war a special status, rendering her territory inviolable and placing her under the guarantee of the powers, outside all European conflicts.

She was, however, in spite of these treaties, the first to suffer the aggression of Germany. For this reason the Belgian government think it necessary to define the aims which Belgium has never ceased to pursue while fighting side by side with the entente powers for right and justice.

Belgium has always scrupulously fulfilled the duties which her neutrality imposed upon her. She has taken up arms to defend her independence and her neutrality violated by Germany and to show that she remains faithful to her international obligations.

Must Restore and Indemnify Nations.

On the fourth of August, 1914, in the reichstag, the German chancellor admitted that the aggression committed by Germany was contrary to the laws of nations, and pledged himself in the name of Germany to repair it. During two and a half years this injustice has been cruelly aggravated by the proceedings of the occupying forces, which have exhausted the resources of the country, ruined its industries, devastated its towns and villages and have been responsible for innumerable massacres, executions and imprisonments.

At this very moment, while Germany is proclaiming peace and humanity to the world, she is deporting Belgian citizens by thousands and reducing them to slavery.

Belgium, before the war, asked for nothing but to live in harmony with her neighbors. Her king and her gov-

ernment have but one aim—the re-establishment of peace and justice. But they only desire peace which would assure to the country legitimate reparation, guarantees and safeguards for the future.

### RADICAL LEGISLATION BY THE URUGUAYAN CONGRESS Is Being Discussed by the Congressional Commission.

Montevideo, Uruguay, Dec. 31.—(Correspondence of The Associated Press.)—Legislation of the most radical character is being discussed by congressional commissions which have been meeting regularly in this capital for the past few weeks. The ordinary sessions of congress are fixed by the constitution to be held between February 15 and June 15 of each year, but the radicals have forced the issue and their advanced ideas are being considered at this time.

The most revolutionary of the proposals is that Uruguay shall change its form of government so that a commission instead of a president shall be vested with the executive power. Uruguay one of the richest and best governed, though one of the smallest of the South American republics, has a population of less than 1,500,000 which the supporters of the commission plan would lend itself to the new idea. Its 18 departments, corresponding to states in the United States of North America are so closely wedded by railways and waterways that the governmental problem is simpler in the little republic than in any other entity of the southern continent. The proposed commission would consist of seven members, one to act as executive chairman for the period of a year, and who is one of the present chief executive's closest friends, is a leader of one of the most advanced of the radical wings. Through his efforts the eight-hour law has already been adopted in practically all parts of the republic. The fact that the present

government cannot follow the proposed programme of this leader and that of Senator Arena has threatened to cause a split in the radical party. This could mean that the opposition might come into power after being out for half a century. It is to avoid this very thing that the compromise of a commission form of government has been proposed, the idea being to find common ground for all wings of the radical party.

Uruguay is the only country in South America where paper currency is today at a premium, measured in terms of American or English gold. The republic has a gold standard, but has never coined any gold pieces. Those which are in circulation come from foreign nations. The unit value of its paper peso, however, is \$1.034 and at the money changers' offices it takes \$1.05 American currency to buy one dollar's worth of Uruguayan paper. No matter how radical has been the programme of any government the law-makers have always been extremely jealous of the republic's reputation for financial stability.

NEW TREATY BETWEEN JAPAN AND RUSSIA Contains Assurance That Neither Country Will Attack the Other.

London, Dec. 31.—According to information through Russian sources, the recent rapprochement between Russia and Japan is likely to have a more far-reaching effect than is shown

in the formal treaty signed at Tokio and made public. The formal treaty had a platonic assurance that neither country will attack the other, and in case of a difference both countries will consult with a view to adjustment. But Russian officials who were in Japan at the time of the negotiations and are now here en route homeward say certain collateral agreements made in conjunction with the treaty give it a real and practical bearing and are really more important than the treaty itself.

One of these collateral features as described by the Russian officials is the withdrawal of Japanese troops stationed as a guard in central and western Manchuria. The presence of these troops, while not an aggressive move, has been considered a sufficient menace to require the presence of a like Russian force in eastern Siberia, along the border of Manchuria. The withdrawal of the Japanese troops is said to be of great advantage to Russia, as it now permits the large force of Russian soldiers, hitherto held inactive, to be transferred to the western fighting front. This feature, which is not expressed in the treaty, is said to be one of the chief cornerstones of the formal agreement not to attack each other.

Other features agreed upon are said to be in extension and development of the terms Japan received under the treaty of Portsmouth. Following that treaty, the great trunk railway running north from Port Arthur and Dairen through southern Manchuria pass-

ed under Japanese control. This control is now to be further extended northward, from Shantung to Harbin, thus giving Japan authority over practically all of the great trunk lines through Manchuria.

Another extension of Japan's commercial authority will be on the Sungari river, one of the great branches of the Amur, heretofore restricted in trade to Russia, but now to be open throughout its length to the commerce of Japan. The Sungari is 800 miles long and its adjacent commerce is so great that the region has the distinctive name of Sungaria.

The Portsmouth treaty also gave Japan one-half of the island of Sakhalin, lying off the Russian Pacific coast, and practically a part of the Japanese group of islands, as it is separated from Yezo only by a narrow strait. Under the new agreement it is said that Japan will acquire the other half of Sakhalin at the conclusion of the war, thus extending her authority over the entire island, with an area of some 50,000 square miles, and completing her control of all the islands in the Japanese group.

Referring to the effect of the treaty—not only the formal text but the collateral effects of the present and future as above summarized—a distinguished Russian said:

"Russia gets immediate advantages in the release of her Siberian troops from her western fighting front. But in commercial and territorial advances Japan secures exceptional advantages, her extension of territory be-

ing greater than any of the belligerent allies has secured during the war."

Record Breaker for Cokes. The coke output of the United States broke all records in 1916. More than \$3,000,000 tons of beehive coke was manufactured, an increase of over 27 per cent compared with 1915, and 500,000 tons more than the record-breaking total in 1910. By-product coke amounted to 19,200,000 tons, an increase of more than 5,000,000 tons, or 26 per cent compared with 1915.

The total coke production, according to estimates prepared by C. E. Leisher, of the United States Geological Survey, Department of the Interior, was 54,500,000 tons, an increase over 1915 of 12,700,000 tons, or 30 per cent and over 1913 of 5,900,000 tons.

Greatest Coal Production. Coal production records were smashed in 1916, when the output was around 575,000,000 tons, compared with 570,000,000 tons, the previous high record established in 1914. The quantity of bituminous coal mined was 609,000,000 tons, an increase compared with 1915 of 65,000,000 tons, or 13 per cent, according to estimates by C. E. Leisher, of the United States Geological Survey, Department of the Interior. The quantity of Pennsylvania anthracite was about \$3,315,000 net tons, a decrease of 600,000 tons.

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